

First black-box show with new director

What was the most memorable moment?



"After I figured out my character, I realized he's just like me. He's really moody, and he doesn't like people. Like, the two fight scenes with Jack were intense. It was hard to remember the sword fight sequence because it was so in the moment. They were real swords and really long, so I worried about hitting the audience, but, thankfully, they weren't sharp."

-BRADLEY MYERS, LAERTES

"We used several movement pieces to tell parts of the story. At one point Hamlet comes into my room, and he's in this sort of daze. And he just breaks down. So the dance portrays all the emotion in that scene. It was a really incredible depiction and people could easily relate to that picturesque form."

-MEGAN LAFFERTY, OPHELIA

"This immortalized moment after Polonius died, Hamlet is pushing me around and yelling, when suddenly I realized that my pants were down. Costume malfunctions are the worst. We were laughing so much."

-AUDREY EVANS, GERTRUDE

"MY LEGACY IN THEATRE, IF YOU WERE TO ASK ANYONE, IS THAT NO MATTER WHAT, I ALWAYS PLAY A MAN."

-BRENNNA WHITTEN, OSRIC

"I CRAWL ACROSS THE STAGE AND SPIT OUT WINE WHILE I REACH FOR OSRIC AND HE'S LIKE, 'NAH, I'M LETTING YOU DIE.'"

-WILLIAM SHAFER, CLAUDIUS



"The night before opening night we were running the scene where I kill Polonius. So I fired the fake gun -- and the sound didn't go off. So after this awkward pause I yelled 'Bang!' It was really anticlimactic. Everyone was laughing. It was also really intense to put myself in the mindset where I'm shooting someone. It's insane."

-JACK MORAGLIA, HAMLET



cast list

Hamlet - Jack Moraglia, 11

King Claudius - William Shafer, 11

Queen Gertrude - Audrey Evans, 12

Polonius - David Funes, 12

Horatio - Aaron Whitten, 11

Ophelia - Megan Lafferty, 12

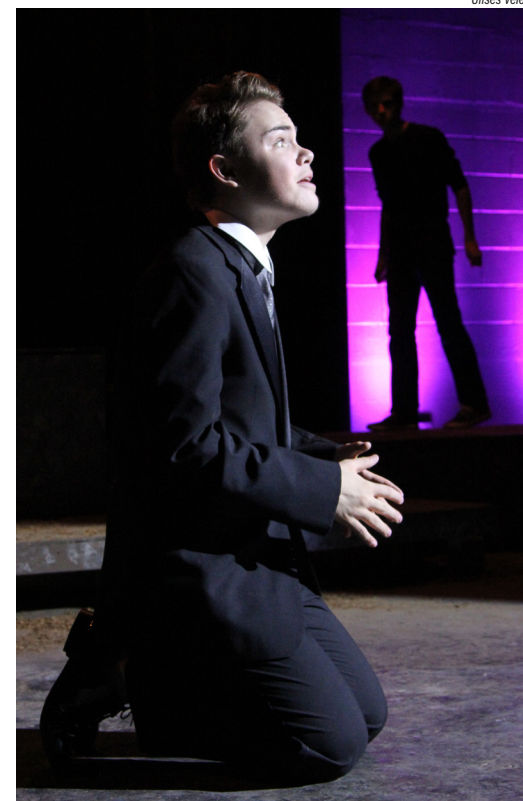
Laertes - Bradley Myers, 11

Ghost - Preston Blair, 10

Ensemble - Yoki Ongwela, Sydney Turnbow, Brenna Whitten, Maggie Cox, Kristen Monk, Abbey Turner, Jessica Vigil, Sabrina Whatley, Megan Svevo, Christina Pennell, Kirsten Reese



Ulises Velez



Ulises Velez

laughing fit

After the murder of Polonius, senior Audrey Evans sobs to junior Jack Moraglia. Their first run-through wearing costumes had left them in laughing fits. "Hamlet was pushing me around, yelling at me, emotions were high. When suddenly I realized," Audrey said. "My pants were down. We were basically crying."

beg your pardon

On his knees, junior William Shafer seeks redemption for murdering his brother. Junior Jack Moraglia lurks in the back contemplating whether to kill him. "I kill Hamlet's father and then I marry his wife to top it off," William said. "I'm trying to receive redemption, but I don't think Claudius really cares. It was crazy. He was basically trying to trick God."

Junior Bradley Myers threatens junior Jack Moraglia for killing his father. One time during rehearsal, Jack punched Bradley in the eye. "It was intense. Everything had to be right, because the audience would notice otherwise," Bradley said. "I lifted him at one point and that was fun. I probably sound like a psychopath right now."



to be or not to be

Varsity theatre performs 'Hamlet'

For one of the two fall shows, varsity theatre performed "Hamlet" in which a troubled young man seeks out vengeance for his father's death after discovering that the murderer is his uncle.

"Hamlet" was the first play by tech director Ms. Jessica Lawrence, who set the Shakespearean tragedy in the modern age.

"I think I just got lucky enough to work with the most talented students in the state is that too bold to say—the world, the universe," Ms. Lawrence said. "So really it didn't seem like work to me. It was just creating with artists who love to create things just as much as I do."

Junior Jack Moraglia, (Hamlet) said learning lines was hard but it was worth it.

"We all just love each other a lot and get closer with every show," Jack said. "We went through this awesome journey together, and at the end it's always sad, but personally, I know I've grown so much because of 'Hamlet.'"

Rehearsals helped the cast bond in the days leading up to opening night.

"There is a moment in the show where Jack is supposed to shove me onto this platform after Hamlet has shot Polonius. I'm in shock and it's an extremely intense scene," senior Audrey Evans said. "So he's yelling in my face, we're reaching this pinnacle moment and he shoves me—and I miss the platform and just fall on the floor. Probably too much time was spent laughing after that."

The emotional depth of Hamlet didn't click for junior Bradley Myers until a comedic run-through the night before the show.

"We had all decided to give our characters funny quirks. Like, we threw balloons everywhere so someone was terrified of balloons" Bradley said. "But even through the jokes, that run made me realize this character is more than just words on a script."

The cast was emotional opening night.

"Finding yourself lost in the moment, the story, is probably one of the best feelings. But the minutes right before you go on stage is amazing too," junior William Shafer said. "Almost the whole cast was like crying and hugging each other right before we opened. I know I'm going to remember this show for the rest of my life."

After the closing night of every show, MGM Theatre has a tradition called "post-Morten." Everyone sits together and says what the show meant to them, starting with freshmen and ending with seniors.

"I think this was the show where I took the biggest jump in my life. I really developed into something else other than just me," Bradley said. "So at 'Post-Morten' I was honest. And I don't really talk about feelings most of the time, like usually I'm trying to be all tough on the exterior. But I was trying to be open about how much I cared for everyone this time, and I feel like that was the most memorable moment."

"Hamlet" was the first production for the varsity theatre where every varsity member was in the cast or crew.

"It was just in a world of its own. Like I don't know if I can even describe how people came together during it," Bradley said. "Maybe not even me, because I don't really connect with people. But Hamlet was a show where friendships were born and it wasn't just clique-y friendships. It was everybody. And that's what really stood out." by Jessica Vigil



Ulises Velez

crying out

Sobbing on the floor, senior Megan Lafferty mourns her father. Her love interest, Hamlet, had shot him the scene before. "When Ophelia's father dies she's devastated," Megan said. "I was screaming and didn't want anyone to touch me. I actually spit at the guards who were trying to hold me back at one point."